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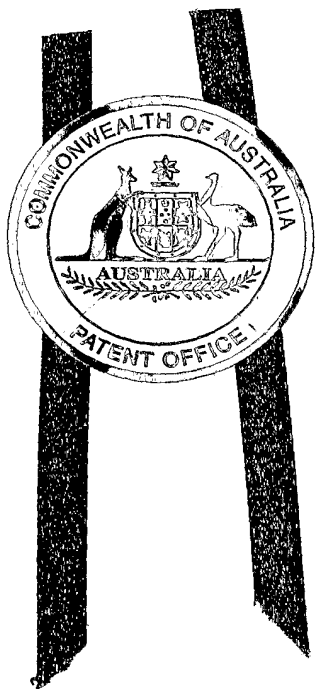


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I, JANENE PEISKER, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2004900672 for a patent by MICHAEL ROY WHITE as filed on 12 February 2004.



WITNESS my hand this
Twenty-third day of February 2005

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Peisker'.

JANENE PEISKER
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES

BRUSH HOLDER

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a brush holder.

- 5 This invention has particular but not exclusive application to a paintbrush holder, and for illustrative purposes reference will be made to such application. However, it is to be understood that this invention could be used in other applications, such as pastry brush holders, mop holders, and wet broom holders.

PRIOR ART

- 10 Paint brushes generally fall into the categories of tradesmen's brushes and handyman's brushes. Tradesmen's brushes are of high quality and are relatively expensive. The brushes are cleaned and reused where possible. Modern coatings such as two pack polyurethane and epoxy coatings often require the use of expensive solvents for clean-up. There is a trade-off between recovering the
15 brush and the cost of cleaning. Cleaned brushes are generally hung up to keep the configuration of the bristles. Handyman's brushes where used in these applications are rarely cleaned and are thus treated as disposable.

- The usable life of both tradesmen's and handyman's brushes may be greatly extended by immersion between uses in a solvent. However, the weight of
20 the brush against the tips of the bristles of a brush standing in solvent causes distortion of the brush shape, as does general storage of brushes where the bristle mass is distorted by that storage. One solution is to suspend the brushes in the solvent. However, this requires the provision of hanging means at the right height which compels the storage to be in a fixed position. It may not be usable for
25 brushes of different hanging heights.

DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

This invention in one aspect resides broadly in a brush holder formed unitarily of sheet material and including a body portion, a pair of lateral portions each spaced from opposite sides of said body portion by a web defined by a pair of spaced folds, a pair of closure portions each spaced from opposite ends of said body portion by an end portion defined by a pair of spaced folds thereabout, one said end portion including an aperture, said lateral and closure portions being adapted to fold up about said folds to form a housing about a paint brush resting on said body portion with the handle through said aperture, and securing means selectively retaining said lateral and closure portions in said folded configuration.

The sheet material may be a flexible material, wherein the pattern and fold parameters, and the folding order and securing means are all selected whereby the housing has sufficient form stability to form a relatively secure housing for a paintbrush. The material may be selected from sheet metal or plastic, coated paper material or the like. Preferable the material is selected to be substantially unaffected by either the paint medium, paint solvent or clean up liquids used for the intended paint system.

The body portion may comprise a flat region bounded on four sides by the first fold line of each of the pairs of lateral and closure portions. The fold lines may be produced by any suitable means and will be largely dictated by the choice of sheet material. For example for thermoplastic materials the fold lines may take the form of a conventional self-hinge pressed into the material.

The pairs of lateral and closure portions may be respectively the same or may be different. For example the closure portion having the handle aperture may be a short portion and the other of the pair may be a relatively longer portion.

Where the lateral portions differ there may be provided a first of the pair adapted to be folded first to extent substantially over the face of the brush opposed to the face of the brush resting on the body portion, whereupon the other may be relieved over part of its equivalent area since it would not be required to close off the brush surface. However, it is preferred that the folding sequence start with the top and bottom portions, and that at least these portions be adapted to cooperate to substantially overlay the whole of the surface of the body portion and thus cover substantially the whole of the brush major surface.

The aperture may be adapted to further cooperate with tabs provided on an edge of each of the lateral portions to provide the securing means. Alternatively the securing means may be formed in one or more pairs of the respective portions in the form of a press stud or the like, either self formed or attached by any suitable means, hook-pile fastening or the like.

One or more of the lower portions of the lower regions of the respective portions may be provided with one or more apertures to provide for entry and drainage of thinners or other solvents. By this means the holder may be used to hold brushes in solvent containers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In order that this invention may be more readily understood and put into practical effect, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings which illustrate a preferred embodiment of the invention and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a view of apparatus in accordance with the present invention, before folding.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

There is provided brush holder apparatus 10 cut out of flat sheet, solvent resistant, thermoplastic material, and forming a substantially rectangular body portion 11, bounded on its respective long sides by a first lateral portion 12 and a second lateral portion 13. The first lateral portion 12 and second lateral portion 13 are each spaced from the body portion 11 by a web 14 defined by spaced inner 15 and outer 16 thermomechanically formed fold lines.

The body portion 11 is bounded on its respective short sides by a first closure portion 17 and a second closure portion 20. The first closure portion 17 and second closure portion 20 are each spaced from the body portion 11 by respective upper 21 and lower 22 webs each defined by spaced inner 23 and outer 24 thermomechanically formed fold lines.

The upper web 21 has an aperture 25 formed therein and adapted to receive the handle of a paint brush, whereby the first closure portion may fold over the shoulder of the brush.

15 The upper edges of each of the first lateral portion 12 and second lateral portion 13 are provided with an integral tab 26, the tabs 26 being adapted to engage the edge of the aperture 25 to assist in locating the lateral portion 12 and second lateral portion 13 in their folded configuration in use.

20 The upper closure portion 17 is thermoformed to provide integral female press stud portions 27. Corresponding thermoformed male press stud portions 30 are provided on the lower closure portion 20, the relative positions of the female 27 and male 30 press stud portions being selected whereby the apparatus is retained in its folded configuration in use.

Solvent/thinners drain holes 31 perforate each of the webs 14 and lower web 22, whereby the holder may in use allow solvent/thinners infusion into the bristle mass of a brush contained in the apparatus.

In use, a paint brush is inserted handle-first through the aperture 25
5 whereby the bristle mass of the brush overlies the body portion 11. The first lateral portion 12 is then folded over the bristle mass and distorted at the finish to allow its tab 26 to enter the aperture 25 and be partially retained therein by elastic recovery of the material. This is followed by folding the second lateral portion 13 over the first lateral portion and again distorted at the finish to allow its tab 26 to
10 enter the aperture 25 and be partially retained therein by elastic recovery of the material. The second lateral portion 13 is shaped so as to not extend over the edges of the first lateral portion 12 in its folded configuration.

The upper closure portion 17 is then folded down and held by the user's thumb against the stock of the brush, presenting the female press stud portions
15 27. The lower closure portion 20 is then folded up over the lateral portion 13 to meet the upper closure portion 17, whereupon the male press stud portions 30 are pressed into engagement with the female press stud portions 27.

Apparatus in accordance with the foregoing example has the advantage that a thin flexible material can provide a suitable brush holder by virtue of the form
20 stability of the folded structure. The apparatus is one-piece, mass producible, cheap and effective. The apparatus may be used on a brush which may then be hung in the usual manner or rested in a container of thinners or solvent without the bristles being distorted.

It will of course be realised that while the above has been given by way of
25 illustrative example of this invention, all such and other modifications and

variations thereto as would be apparent to persons skilled in the art are deemed to fall within the broad scope and ambit of this invention as is herein set forth.

CLAIM

1. A brush holder formed unitarily of sheet material and including a body portion, a pair of lateral portions each spaced from opposite sides of said body portion by a web defined by a pair of spaced folds, a pair of closure portions each spaced from opposite ends of said body portion by an end portion defined by a pair of spaced folds thereabout, one said end portion including an aperture, said lateral and closure portions being adapted to fold up about said folds to form a housing about a paint brush resting on said body portion with the handle through said aperture, and securing means selectively retaining said lateral and closure portions in said folded configuration.

DATED THIS TWELFTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2004.

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MICHAEL ROY WHITE

by

PIZZEYS

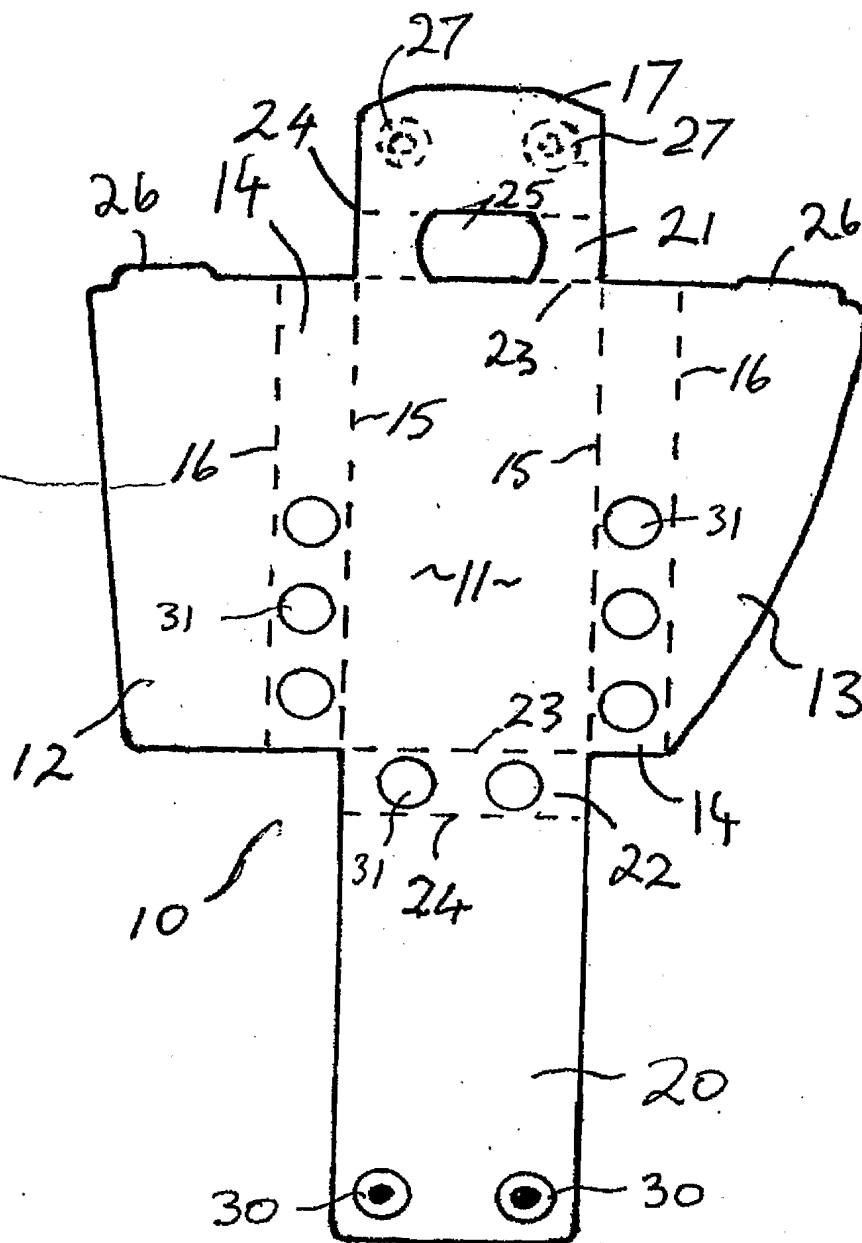


Fig. 1